

## ASBESTOS RISK EVALUATION

### ISSUE/TOPIC: TSCA RISK EVALUATION FOR ASBESTOS

#### BACKGROUND:

- On December 19, 2016, as required by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 6(b)(2)(A), as amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, the EPA published an initial list of ten (10) chemical substances that will be the subject of the Agency's chemical risk evaluations to determine whether the chemical substances present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.
- The 10 chemicals designated were statutorily required to be drawn from the 2014 update of the TSCA Work Plan for Chemical Assessments.
- Asbestos was included in the 2014 update of the TSCA Work Plan for Chemical Assessments and selected as one of the 10 chemical substances included on the list published in December 2016, thereby initiating the TSCA risk evaluation process for this chemical substance.
- Accomplishments. EPA has initiated the risk evaluation process for Asbestos, including the preparation of the scope of the risk evaluation that will include the hazards, exposures, conditions of use, and the potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations the Administrator expects to consider. This scope document must be published within six months after the initiation of the risk evaluation as per TSCA Section 6(b)(4)(D). EPA is on track to meet this statutory deadline.
- Congressional Inquiries. Senators Boxer, Durbin, Feinstein, and Tester wrote in support of including asbestos on the initial list.

#### TALKING POINTS:

- On December 19, 2016, EPA designated Asbestos as one of the first 10 chemical substances for which EPA would be conducting a risk evaluation as required by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to determine whether the chemical substances present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.
- Upon initiating the risk evaluation process for Asbestos, EPA began work to prepare the scope of the risk evaluation to be conducted. The scope of the risk evaluation must include the hazards, exposures, conditions of use, and the potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations the Administrator expects to consider.
- TSCA Section 6(b)(4)(D) requires the EPA to publish the scope of the risk evaluation for Asbestos within six months after the initiation (by June 19, 2017); EPA is on track to meet this statutory deadline.